The Famous and Memorable

HISTORY

OF

CHEVY-CHACE.

BY THE

River Tweed, in Scotland.

TOGETHER WITH

The fatal Battle between Lord Piercy of Northumberland, and his fifteen hundred Archers, and the Earl of Douglas with twenty hundred Scots; in which both these Earls and most of their Men were slain.

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THE HISTORY OF Hunting on Chevy-Chace.

CHAP. I

How the Piercies came by their Name, and to be Earls of Northumberland; and of the Vow which the Earl in the Reign of Henry II made, of Hunting three Days in Chevy-Chace.

THE noble families of the Piercies, Earls of Northumberland, have always had a high esteem amongst all the English nobility, and, for their valour famed throughout the world. We might give you a large account of the descent of

that noble Earl, who is to be a chief part of the ſubject of the following ſtory. Hiſtory records him for the fortunate valour of a courteous Knight, who killed the King of the Scots, by running his ſpear

into his eye, as he was beſieging Roxburgh caſtle. Upon which his name was changed, and that of Piercy given, together with the Earldom of Northumberland, and this of whom I now ſpeak was his grandſon and heir. But to come nearer to the purpoſe; the noble Earl of Northumberland taking his progreſs, attended with fifteen hundred ſtout archers, paſſed on the marches of Scotland, and wiſhing for ſome veniſon, he was informed that in a foreſt beyond the Tweed, called Chevy-Chace, belonging to Earl Doug-

las, a Scotch nobleman, there was such a ſort of it, that the like was in no part of the kingdom; and proviſion being ſcarce on the Engliſh ſide, made his men ſo forward, that they deſired they might go out in parties and bring away as much as they could undiſcovered; but he deſpiſing a way that looked like deer ſtealing, told them, If their courage was but ſufficient to venture for it fairly, himſelf would go with them; and ſo hunting it down at fair game, it would be brought off with honour, as a lawful prize taken in an enemy's country.

To this motion of the Earl's they ſoon gave conſent.—And ſo the Earl made a vow, that for three days he would take his pleaſure in hunting on Chevy Chace. And ſo ſending for dogs and toils, early on a Midſummer morning they paſſed the Tweed, and were by a guide directed to the place. So to the game they went.—The dogs were put in to rouſe the harts, the horns ſounded, and the huntſmen ſhouts, with the dogs cries, made a pleaſant noiſe. But the villager all thinking it had been the ſound of war on ſome ſudden invaſion, were ſo terrified, that ſome

hide themſelves, while others of them fled from their habitations, and alarmed the country.

CHAP. II.

Of their killing many Deer; and receiving at Supper-time a threatning Meſſage from Douglas, commanding them to depart.

THE harts and roes, though ſwift as the wind, could not out ſtrip the Engliſh arrows, our archers laying hundreds of them dead, ſo that they had got vaſt ſtore of veniſon, as made them doubt how to carry it off.—Yet having refreſhed themſelves, they found the ſtore leſſened.

But while the Earl was at ſupper, on a table made upon the graſs, and ſitting on turfs, as he was about to give orders to his huntſmen to purſue the ſame ſport the next morning, in came a meſſenger in a ſcarlet livery. On which the Earl demanded from what place he came, and

what was his buſineſs? to which he thus moſt haughtily replied,

Sir, whatever you are, my maſter, the noble Earl Douglas, chief ranger to the King of Scotland, to whom all theſe parks and chaces belong, hearing you have preſumed to enter them, and deſtroy his deer, by me tells you, that if you do not ſuddenly depart, your lives ſhall pay for the injuries you have done before tomorrow noon.

This being ſaid, he was about to depart; but Earl Piercy taking him by the ſleeve, ſaid, it is but convenient that you ſhould carry back an anſwer to your great Lord.—Tell him my name is Piercy, a name at which all Scotland has trembled. Tell him I have propoſed to take my pleaſure in theſe foreſts and chaces two days longer, and if he is valiant let him interrupt my ſport at the hazard of his life.

Upon that the meſſenger departed to the Scotch Earl, and related what was given him in charge by Earl Piercy.—At which the Scotchman ſtormed and fretted, walking up and down in a great fury.

He enquired the number of the Engliſh, but the meſſenger could not give him a certain account, only gueſſed there might be about ten or twelve hundred men. Whereupon he ordered his men and armour, which was gilded with gold, to be got ready againſt morning light, alſo all his friends and ſervants, together with as many as made up full two thouand men.

CHAP.

CHAP. III.

Of Earl Piercy's ſecond Day's Sport, an his Conduct on hearing of Dougla's Approach.

THE Earl of Northumberland relying on his mens courage, who were the beſt archers in England, was ſo far from being daunted, that he ordered the taole to be ſpread again, and ſtore of wines in healths went round to their proſperity.

The ſun no ſooner gilded the horizon, but the ſport was renewed, and the woods reſounded with the pleaſing noiſe. That morning they killed the moſt ſtately hart ever ſeen. Then the Earl, turning to one of his knights, ſaid, The time draws near, that if Earl Douglas keeps his word we ſhall have another kind of ſport. Therefore let it be our care to keep our men together; for man to man, I fear them not againſt any nation under heaven; but if I thought he would not come we would

remove to the next foreſt, for thither I perceive the deer fled.

He had no ſooner uttered theſe words but Witherington came up to him, ſaying, My Lord, cauſe the dogs to be called off, and muſter up your forces, for on the top of yonder hill I ſee Douglas coming towards you, with upwards of two thouſand ſpearmen. I thank thee, replied the Earl, and doubt not my courage. So Withtington, bowing, ſaid, My Lord, I do not doubt ſo to behave myſelf, and your men this day, as to be remembered in the moſt diſtant ages.

Immediately the horns blew a retreat, the dogs were called off, and the archers muſtered about their leader, who raiſed up their courage with the following oration:

My renowned countrymen, it was by your conſent we paſſed over the Tweed for recreation, which is ſoon likely to be diſturbed. Earl Douglas has ſent me a challenge, and is going to give us battle, or make us fly over the Tweed. Pluck up your ſpirits, and conſider that you are Engliſhmen, and that Piercy fights at the head of you; be courageous, and for the

honour of our King, and the renown of our country gain a laſting fame, which ſhall not die but with time itſelf.

Having ſaid thus much, they all ſhouted, and immediately fell into order, ſome pruning their arrows, and others new ſtringing their bows made of truſty ſteel.

CHAP.

CHAP. IV.

Of the Meeting of the two Earls; their Propoſals to decide the Quarrel in ſingle Combat; with Withrington's Objection.

THE Engliſh archers, in number fifteen hundred, were no ſooner in readineſs, but Earl Douglas appeared on the top of the hill, mounted on a milk white ſteed, and his men ranged in order behind him, with their glittering ſpears, whoſe number was juſt two thouſand.

Earl Piercy, taking a ſtaff in his hand, and a ſword by his ſide, cauſed his men to move forward. Earl Douglas, being within forty paces, demanded, Whoſe men they were, that durſt preſume to hunt in his foreſt, and to kill his deer? Whoever they were, they muſt expect to be ſeverely puniſhed; commanding them to yield immediately if they expected mercy.

The Engliſh Earl replied, It matters not whoſe men we are; but what we

have done we juſtify, and what deer we have killed we will carry away, or die upon the ſpot.

This, ſpoken with ſuch courage, made Douglas ſomething calmer.—O, ſaid he, I know thee Earl Piercy, thou art an Earl as well as I; therefore, if thou art as brave as fame reports thee, let thou and I decide it.

This offer pleaſed Piercy, who drawing his ſword bid defiance to the challenger; and both were immediately ready to engage, had not Witherington thus addreſſed himſelf to Earl Piercy: My Lord, heaven forbid that I and the reſt of your ſervants ſhould ſtand idle, while you are engaged: permit, therefore, my good Lord, that we all partake of the glory of the day.

Hereupon all the Engliſh ſhouted, and the engagement became general.

CHAP.

CHAP. V.

The Battle begun, and of its obſtinate and bloody Countenance. And the Death of the two Earls.

THE Engliſh archers on the leſt diviſion immediately ſent a flight of arrows, which laid ſixty of the Scots dead, and the right diviſion letting fly on the flank of their battalion, gauled them moſt miſerably. Earl Douglas ſeeing his men diſcouraged, ordered them to advance, and come to a cloſe fight, whereby he imagined to make the Engliſh bows uſeleſs. But he was miſtaken, for whenever the front opened the archers plied the Scots with their arrows, while the others kept them in play with their ſwords, inſomuch that the ground was covered with their dead bodies.

And now Earl Piercy being backed by divers Knights, like a tempeſt he broke in amongſt them, with ſuch fury, that

he laid heaps of dead before him, insomuch that Earl Douglas, who was fighting on the other side, and signalized his valour very much, was forced to come and succour his broken forces, when the two Earls met like enraged lions; no armour was proof against their clear well-tempered swords. So that Earl Douglas beginning to faint, thus bespoke the Earl Piercy.

Noble Lord, you see your blood begins to flow fast, and death you cannot escape if you contend with me any longer. I therefore in pity to your life, would have you yield yourself my prisoner; — you shall be nobly used, and I'll prefer you to my King.

To this Earl Pearcy replied, As for my life, take you no care, but surely guard your own. My honour I prefer before any thing, and it never shall be said, that Piercy yielded to a Scot.

Whilst they paused a little, an arrow coming from amongst the ranks of the English archers, pierced the valiant Douglas to the heart; who falling to the ground, his last words were, Fight on my merry men, revenge my death, for I

am ſlain, and Lord Piercy lives to ſee my fall.

Earl Piercy mourned Earl Douglas's death, as one glorious hero ever does another. But while he ſtood near the body, Sir Hugh Montgomery, a valiant Scotch Knight, let fly an arrow at him, which pierced his heart. Withrington, perceiving this, and from whence the fatal ſhaft came, immediately vowed revenge, and therefore coming to Montgomery, with one ſtroke of a broad ſword ended his life. But himſelf did not long ſurvive; for ſhortly after, a Scot with an arrow put an end to this gallant hero's life.

THE
Excellent OLD BALLAD
DESCRIBING
The woeful Hunting Match on Cheviot Hills; with the bloody Fight between the Earls Piercy and Douglas.

GOD prosper long our noble King,
our Lives and Safeties all:
A woful Hunting once there did
in *Chevy-Chase* befall.
To drive the Deer with Hound and Horn,
Earl *Piercy* took his Way.
The Child may rue that is unborn
the Hunting of that Day.
The stout Earl of *Northumberland*
a Vow to God did make,
His Pleasures in the *Scottish* Woods
three Summers Days to take;
The chiefest Harts in *Chevy-Chace*
to kill and bear away.
The Tydings to Earl *Douglas* came
in *Scotland*, where he lay;

Who ſent Earl *Piercy* preſent Word,
the would prevent his Sport.
The *Engliſh* Earl, not fearing this,
did to the Woods reſort,
With Fifteen Hundred Bowmen bold,
all choſen Men of Might,
Who knew full well, in Time of Need,
to aim their Shafts aright.
The gallant Greyhound ſwiftly run
to chaſe the Fallow Deer,
On *Monday* they began to hun
when Day light did appear
And long before high noon they had
an hundred fat Bucks ſlain,
Then having din'd the Drovers went
to rouſe them up again.
The Bowmen muſter'd on the Hills,
well able to endure.
Their Back ſides all with ſpecial Care,
that Day were guarded ſure.
The hounds ran ſwiftly thro' the woods
the nimble Deer to take,
And with their Cries the Hills and Dales
an Eccho ſhrill did make.
Lord *Piercy* to the Quarry went,
to view the tender Deer.
Quoth he, Earl *Douglas* promiſed
this Day to meet me here:
If that I thought he would not come;
no longer would I ſtay.
Then ſtept a brave young Gentleman,
thus to the Earl did ſay:
Lo! yonder doth Earl *Douglas* come,
his Men in Armour bright;
Full twenty hundred *Scottiſh* Spears,
all marching in our Sight;

All Men of pleasant *Tiviotdale*,
fast by he River *Tweed*.
Then ceaset your Sport, Earl *Pierey* said,
and take your Bows with Speed:
And now with me, my Countrymen,
your Courage forth advance;
For never was there Champion yet
in *Scotland* or in *France*,
That ever did on Horseback come,
But if my Hap it were,
I durst encounter Man for Man
With him to break a Spear.

Douglas on a milk-white steed,
Much like a Baron bold,
Rodo fremost of his Company,
wheoe Armour shone like Gold.
Shew me said he, whose Men you be,
that hunt so boldly here;
That without my Consent dare chase
and kill my Fallow Deer.

The firſt that did the Anſwer make
was noble *Piercy* he,
Who ſaid, we liſt not to declare,
or ſhew whoſe Men we be;
Yet we will ſpend our deareſt Blood,
the chiefeſt Harts to ſlay:
Then *Douglas* ſwore a ſolemn Oath,
and thus in Rage did ſay:
Before I will out-braved be,
one of us two ſhall die:
I know thee well, an Earl thou art,
Lord *Piercy*, ſo am I.
But truſt me, *Piercy*, I think it were
a great Offence to kill
Any of theſe our harmleſs Men,
for they have done no Ill;
Let thou and I the Battle try,
and ſet our Men aſide.
Accurſt be he, Lord *Piercy* ſaid,
by whom this is deny'd.
Then ſtept a gallant Squire forth,
Witherington was his Name,
Who ſaid, I would not have it told
to *Henry* our King for Shame,
That e'er my Captain fought on Foot,
and I ſtood looking on:
You are two Earls, ſaid *Witherington*,
and I a Squire alone;
I'll do the beſt, that do I may,
whilſt I have Power to ſtand;
Whilſt I have Power to wield my Sword
I'll fight with Heart and Hand.
Our *Engliſh* Archers bent their Bows
their Hearts were good and true;
At the firſt Flight of Arrows ſent,
full threeſcore Scots they ſlew

To drive the Deer with Hound and Horn
Earl *Douglas* had the Bent.
The Captains, mov'd with muckle Pride,
their Spears to Shivers ſent.
They clos'd full faſt on every Side,
no Slackneſs there was found;
Whilſt many a gallant Gentleman
lay gaſping on the Ground.
Oh, Chriſt! it was a Grief to ſee,
and likewiſe for to hear,
The Groans of Men lying in their Gore,
and ſcatter'd here and there.
At laſt theſe two great Earls did meet,
like Captains of great Might,
Like Lions mov'd, they laid on Loads,
and made a bloody Fight;
They fought until they both did ſweat,
with Swords of temper'd Steel,
Until the Blood, like Drops of Rain,
they trickling down did feel.

Yield thee, Earl *Piercy*, *Douglas*,
in faith I will thee bring,
Where thou ſhalt high advanced be
by *James* our *Scottiſh* King:

Thy Ranſom I will freely give,
and thus report of thee,
Thou art the moſt courageous Knight
that ever I did ſee.
To the Earl *Douglas*, *Piercy* ſaid,
thy Proffers I do ſcorn;
I will not yield to any *Scot*,
that ever yet was born.
With that there came an Arrow keen,
out of an *Engliſh* Bow,
Which ſtruck Earl *Douglas* to the Hear,
a deep and deadly Blow;
Who never ſpoke more Words than theſe,
Fight on, my merry Men all;
For why, my Life is at an End,
Lord *Piercy* ſees my Fall!
Then, leaving Life, Earl *Piercy* took
the dead Man by the Hand,
And ſaid, Earl *Douglas*, for thy Sake
would I had loſt my Land:
O Chriſt! my very Heart doth bleed
with Sorrow for thy Sake;
For ſure a more renowned Knight
Miſchance did never take.
A Knight amongſt the *Scots* there was,
who ſaw Earl *Douglas* die,
Who ſtrait in Wrath did vow Revenge
upon the Lord *Piercy*;
Sir *Hugh Montgomery* was he call'd,
who with a Spear moſt bright,
Well mounted on a gallant Steed,
rode fiercely thro' the Fight,
And paſs'd our *Engliſh* Archers all,
without all Dread and Fear;
And through Earl *Piercy*'s Body then
he thruſt his hateful Spear;

With ſuch a vehement Force and Might
he did his Body gore,
That the Spear went thro' the other Side
a full Cloth-Yard and more:
So thus did both theſe Nobles die,
whoſe Courage none could ſtain.
An *Engliſh* Archer then perceiv'd
the noble Earl was ſlain;
He had a Bow bent in his Hand,
made of a truſty Tree;
An Arrow of a Cloth-Yard long
unto the Head drew he;
Againſt Sir *Hugh Montgomery*
aright his Shaft he ſet:
The grey Gooſe Wing that was thereon
in his Heart's Blood was wet.
This Fight did laſt from Break of Day,
till Setting of the Sun;
For when they rung the Evening Bell,
the Battle ſcarce was done.
With the Earl *Piercy* there were ſlain,
Sir *John* of *Ogerton*,
Sir *Robert Ratcliff*, and Sir *John*,
Sir *James* that bold Baron;
With good Sir John and good Sir James,
both Knights of good Account,
Good Sir *Ralph Rabbin* there was ſlain
whoſe Proweſs did ſurmount
For *Witherington* needs muſt I wail,
as one in doleful Dumps;
For when his Legs were ſmitten off,
he fought upon his Stumps.
And with Earl *Douglas* there were ſlain
Sir *Hugh Montgomery*,
Sir *Charles Currel*, that from the Field
one Foot would never flee;

Sir *Charles Murrel* of *Ratcliff* too,
his Siſter's Son was he;
Sir *David Lamb*, ſo eſteem'd,
they ſaved could not be.
And the Lord *Maxwell* in likewiſe
did with Earl *Douglas* die.
Of Twenty Hundred *Scotiſh* Spears,
ſcarce Fifty five did fly.
Of Fifteen Hundred *Engliſhmen*
went home but Fifty-three:
The reſt were ſlain in *Chevy Chaſe*,
under the Green wood Tree.
Next Day did many Widows come,
their Husbands to bewail:
They waſh'd their Wounds in briny Teare,
yet all would not prevail.
Their Bodies, bath'd in purple Gore,
with them they bore away,
And kiſs'd them dead a thouſand Time
when they were clad in Clay.
The News was brought to *Edinburgh*,
where *Scotland*'s King did reign,
That the Earl *Douglas* ſuddenly
was with an Arrow ſlain.
Oh, heavy News! King *James* did ſay,
Scotland can Witneſs be,
have not any Captain more
of ſuch Account as he.
Like Tidings to King *Henry* came,
within as little Space,
That *Piercy* of *Northumberland*
was ſlain in *Chevy-Chace*.
Then God be with him, ſaid our King,
ſith 'twill no better be;
I truſt I have, within my Realm,
Five hundred good as he

Yet ſhall not *Scot* nor *Scotland* ſay,
but I will Veneeance take;
And be revenged on them all,
for my Lord Piercy's Sake.
This Vow the King full well perfo
after at at *Humble-Down*,
Where fifty *Scotiſh* Earls were ſlain,
with Men of great Renown;
And of the reſt, of ſmall ccount,
did many Thouſands die,
Thus ended the Hunting of *Chevy Chace*,
made by the Lord *Piercy*.
God ſave the King, and bleſs the Land,
in Plenty, Joy, and Peace:
And grant henceforth, that foul Debate,
'twixt Noblemen may ceaſe.

F I N I S.